REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-11 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,259,914 to Koster. In reply to Applicant's previous argument that Koster does not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, "wherein said RNM ... allocates the mobile phone numbers in the contracted roaming network to subscribers roaming in the contracted roaming network dynamically through the MSC/VLR in the contracted roaming network and the HLR in the home network" as recited by amended Claim 1 of the present application, the Examiner retorts that the IRS HLR 160 of Koster is connected with the HSP whereas the MDN is allocated and associated with the original MIN of the foreign mobile station 100. Applicant respectfully maintains his traverse of the Examiner rejection, but in a sincere effort to move this case to issue has hereby further amended claim 1 to even more clearly delineate its scope and set it apart from the art on record.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate certain features originally recited in claim 5, in view of which Applicant submits that Koster does not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, "at least one Roaming Number Manager (RNM) connected with the HLR in the home network" as recited by currently amended claim 1.

As presently recited in amended claim 1, the RNM is connected with the HLR in the home network. Although the Examiner asserts in the Office Action that "Koster further discloses an agreement between the WSP and the roamer's HSP (HLR in the service region 165), the WSP populates the IRS HLR 160 (roaming number manager) with the MIN 228 and ESN 227 of specified HSP subscribers, including the international roamer. Therefore, the IRS HLR 160 is connected with the HSP whereas the MDN is allocated and associated with the original MIN of the foreign mobile station 100. (Col. 5, lines 32-38; Col. 6, lines 1-17 and Figure 1)", Applicant submits that the roamer's HSP refers to the roamer's Home Service Provider and should not be

interpreted as HLR in the service region 165. As can be seen from Figure 1 of the Koster patent, the IRS HLR 160 is not connected with the FHLR 185. Therefore, in the system disclosed in the Koster patent, the RNM is clearly not connected with the HLR in the home network, contrary to currently amended claim 1.

Applicant submits that Koster also does not disclose, suggest or teach that, as recited in currently amended Claim 1,

"the HLR in the home network is adapted to inform an RNM corresponding to the current location of a subscriber roaming in the contracted roaming network of subscriber location update upon receiving a request from the VLR in the contracted roaming network;

the RNM is adapted to allocate a local mobile phone number from a pool of local mobile phone numbers in the contracted roaming network for the subscriber, store mapping between the allocated local mobile phone number and the subscriber, and return the allocated local mobile phone number to the HLR in the home network; and

the HLR in the home network is further adapted to send the local mobile phone number in the contracted roaming network, to be inserted in the VLR in the contracted roaming network, to the VLR in the contracted roaming network."

Thus, as is clearly recited in Claim 1, the RNM is associated with the HLR in the home network and the allocation of the mobile phone number in the contracted roaming network to a roaming subscriber by the RNM is achieved through the interaction with the HLR in the home network.

In contrast, and as best seen in Figure 1 of Koster, the IRS HLR 160 is deployed in the visited cellular system 130. Furthermore, according to Col. 5, line 52-Col. 6, line 17 and Figure 3, wherein a flow chart illustrating steps performed within the network architecture of FIG .1 during activation and registration of foreign mobile station 100 within a visited cellular system 130 is described, at step 302 the foreign mobile station 100 initiates a registration request to MSC 110; at step 304, MSC 110 associates the INIC included in the request with an SS7 point code; at step 306, MSC 110 initiates an IS-41 message to the IRS HLR 160; at step 308, the IRS HLR 160 compares the MIN and the ESN included in the message to values in the IRS HLR

160; at step 310, if the values are found, the IRS HLR 160 confirms the foreign mobile station 100 is a valid subscriber, otherwise the IRS HLR 160 reports an error in step 312; and at step 314, the IRS HLR 160 selects an MDN from a pool of numbers allocated to serve international roamers and returns an acknowledgement including the MDN to the MSC 110. As can be seen from the above, the IRS HLR 160 compares the MIN and the ESN included in the message to values in the IRS HLR 160 *independently* of the HLR in the service region 165. In addition, the HLR in the service region 165 does not inform the IRS HLR 160 of subscriber location update and the IRS HLR 160 does not return the allocated MDN to the HLR in the service region 165. Thus, the whole process of allocating an MDN to the foreign mobile station 100 is performed only in the visited cellular system 130 without any interaction or communication with the HLR in the service region 165.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Koster clearly does not anticipate amended claim 1. Furthermore, claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-11 and 14-16 depend from claim 1 and Applicant therefore submits that these claims are also not anticipated by Koster at least in view of their dependency on claim 1.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §103

Claims 5, 9, 12-13 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Koster in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,673 to Alperovich. Claims 5, 9, 12-13 and 17-19 depend from claim 1. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, in light of the above discussion of claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 5, 9, 12-13 and 17-19 are also allowable at least in view of their dependency on claim 1.

For the sake of maintaining a complete record, Applicant further notes that Alperovich is essentially irrelevant to the subject matter of the present invention, as it discloses providing location-based call forwarding within a mobile telecommunications network. As is well known in the art, call forwarding is a technology wherein when a call cannot be delivered to the called party for some reason, e.g. if the called party is busy, the call can be rerouted to another number that is predefined by the called party. There is simply no reason for a skilled person looking to

implement the international wireless roaming system of Koster to consult Alperovich, as call forwarding has nothing to do with international *roaming*.

Regarding the prior art made of record by the Examiner but not relied upon, Applicant believes that this art does not render the pending claims unpatentable.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urges the Examiner to pass this case to issue.
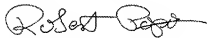

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this document is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office via electronic filing.

Respectfully submitted,

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